



produced in Borneo and Sumatra, although this crop is expanding into Africa and South America.

Palm plantations are NOT part of the rainforest. Palm oil is an introduced agricultural crop. Palm oil is the most widely produced edible oil. Demand for palm oil is rapidly increasing because of recent trans-fat health concerns.



Palm oil harvest

Supply and demand pressures are driving the production of palm oil up to an all-time high. Found in cookies, crackers, frozen dinners, shampoo, lotions, cosmetics, pet food and many other products, palm oil is now the most widely produced edible oil. It is also found in a wide array of products sold in natural food stores, and it is being

used as a possible fuel alternative.

## Who Is Affected by Palm Oil?

Indonesia is facing the highest rate of tropical rain forest loss in the world. The deforestation rate in Indonesia is about *18 square miles every day*, or 6,500 square miles per year. There are 9.2 million acres of degraded land (already clear cut) available that could be used for palm oil plantations. Instead, many companies choose to use high conservation value rainforest in order to gain the additional timber profits. Also, the companies ignore the regulations that the sustainable palm plantations abide by.



Sumatran tiger

Sumatra has 201 mammal species, 580

## The Palm Oil Crisis

*(Primary source of information: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, [www.cmzoo.org](http://www.cmzoo.org).)*

### What Is Palm Oil?

Palm oil is a form of edible vegetable oil obtained from the fruit of the African oil palm tree (*Elaeis guineensis*). African oil palms originate in West Africa, but they can flourish wherever heat and rainfall are abundant. The majority of all palm oil is grown and

birds, 217 reptiles, over 70 amphibians, 272 fish and 15,000 plant species. Flagship species include elephants, rhinos, tigers and orangutans.

Borneo has 22 species of mammals, 420 birds, 180 reptiles, 150 amphibians, 394 fish, and 15,000 plants. Borneo is home to orangutans, elephants, clouded leopards, proboscis monkeys, sun bears, and hornbills.



Sumatran orchid

Clear-cut, fragmented forests destroy the natural habitats and living habits for all species. With no place to live and no food to eat, there is no hope for the survival of these living species.



Clear-cut forest on left and rainforest on right

Rainforests remove massive amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. With the deforestation of the rainforest and the

burning of peat soil, there is an increase in greenhouse gasses, which is contributing to global warming.



Bornean male orangutan

## How are orangutans effected?

Bornean orangutans are classified as Endangered. The wild population of Bornean orangutans is estimated at 45,000. Compare this to 1990 when the population was estimated to be 300,000 in the wild.

Sumatran orangutans are classified as Critically Endangered. Their wild population is estimated to be fewer than 7,500 Sumatran orangutans. This makes them one of the top 25 most endangered primates in the world.



Baby Sumatran orangutan

Orangutans give birth once every 6-10 years, the longest inter-birth interval of any mammal, resulting in a slow reproductive rate. They are the largest arboreal mammal on earth, and the only Asian great ape.

Orangutans are amazingly intelligent. They create and use tools. Orangutans memorize intricate maps in the rainforest of how to move to fruiting trees at the proper times when the fruit is ripe, and without needing to descend to the ground (as long as they live in healthy intact forests). Orangutan researchers have observed evidence of cultural transmission of behavior. Orangutans in different geographical areas will have different methods of doing similar behaviors or will display unique behaviors that are not seen in other orangutan populations.

Orangutans will be extinct in the wild in 10-15 years if the palm oil industry, deforestation and burning of peat forests do not change.

## How do you identify palm oil in products?

Various names are used to identify when palm oil is used as an ingredient or derivative in a product. It is impossible to memorize every name for palm oil in order to read labels and avoid purchasing it.

Various names of palm oil are:

1. arachamide mea
2. capric triglyceride
3. caprylic triglyceride
4. caprylyl glycol
5. cetyl alcohol
6. cocoa butter equivalent (CBE)
7. cocoa butter substitute (CBE)
8. elaeis guineesais
9. emulsifier (some can be palm oil derived)
10. epoxidized palm oil (UV cured coatings)
11. ethylene glycol monostearate
12. ethylhexyl palmitate
13. fatty alcohol sulphates
14. glyceryl stearate
15. isopropyl
16. isopropyl palmitete

17. mono-glycerides of fatty acids
18. myristoyl
19. octyl palmitate
20. oleyl betaine
21. palm kernel oil
22. palm oil
23. palm olein
24. palm stearine
25. palmitate
26. palmitoyl oxostearamide
27. palmitoyl tetrapeptide-3
28. peg-100 stearate
29. peptide complex
30. saponified elaeis guineensis
31. sls
32. sodium lauryl
33. sodium lauryl sulphate
34. sodium lauryl sulfate
35. sodium lauryl sulfoacetate
36. sodium palm kernalate
37. odium palmate
38. dosium stearate
39. sodium laureth sulfate
40. sodium laureth sulphate
41. sodium lauroyl lactylate
42. stearamidopropyl dimethylamine
43. steareth-2
44. steareth-20
45. steareth-21
46. stearic acid
47. vegetable oil
48. vitamin A palmitate

*Note: Some of these are oils/derivatives that may be palm oil or may be derived from other oils.*

## What is Sustainable Palm Oil?

If a boycott of palm oil would work, we would all jump on board. But due to the concentration

of palm oil in so many products, it is almost impossible to think we could do it. In addition to practicality, we much remember that the palm oil plantations employ millions of people in the high poverty countries of Indonesia and Malaysia.

Most people believe the best course of action and the more responsible choice would be using Certified Sustainable Palm Oil. *This is a very complex subject, and ACE encourages you to do your own research to form your own opinion.*

Certified Sustainable Palm Oil is not just any palm oil. It comes from a plantation that has made a commitment to produce palm oil in a way that minimizes its impact on wildlife, indigenous people, and the planet.

Certified Sustainable Palm Oil plantations make decent housing and wages, schools and health clinics available for their employees. (Conditions for employees of un-certified plantations are not regulated.)

Native people often lose their land and livelihoods to large palm oil companies. Most of the money from non-sustainable produced palm oil does not trickle down to local people. Local people can and

should be trained in environmentally sustainable agriculture, reforestation techniques, eco-tourism, and other sustainable trades, crafts and professions. This is happening in some areas, and it is very exciting for the indigenous people of Borneo and Sumatra.



## What is the RSPO?

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil is a multi-stakeholder group with many members from palm oil growers and producers to businesses, social organizations, conservation NGOs and government institutions. The group was formed in 2004 in response to the urgent and pressing global call for sustainably-produced palm oil.

Objectives of the RSPO: promoting the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.

Companies who are members of the RSPO are required to abide by RSPO principles and guidelines. The seat of the association is in Zurich, Switzerland, while the secretariat is currently based in Kuala Lumpur with a satellite office in Jakarta.

In November 2007, the RSPO launched a certification system, establishing a definition and criteria for certified sustainable palm oil.

## What can you do to save orangutans?

We are including a shopping guide which shows companies who have become RSPO members, and we hope you will support their products.

Other companies not on this list state they use only sustainable palm oil in their products. However, without the ability to certify practices and employee treatment, there is no way to know if they in fact do what they profess.

Use your power as a consumer. Let your favorite restaurants and companies know that you care about orangutans and the environment. Ask them if they have joined

RSPO, and if not, ask them why not. If you want to write a company about this, you can see a sample letter you can use on the cmzoo.org website under palm oil crisis.

Encourage better labeling by companies who are RSPO members. You can ask for % of palm oil in their product and also for specific labeling as "Orangutan Friendly" which is just like the "Dolphin Safe" tuna labeling.

Go see wild orangutans. If tourist dollars are coming into the country, it would be foolish to destroy the rainforest and animals that tourists are coming to see.

Be a responsible consumer of wood and lumber products. Recycle household and office paper products and cardboard.

Learn more and tell your friends and family. Working together we can make a difference for the orangutans of Indonesia - and planet Earth!

## 2013 General Meeting Schedule

In an effort to help the membership plan ahead, the ACE board has set

the following dates for General Meetings in 2013. We hope this will encourage more members to attend.

### **Saturday, Aug. 24**

**This meeting will begin at 6:45 pm. Please plan to attend because it is election of new Board members.** You can bring a brown bag dinner if you like, but we will NOT have a covered dish dinner at this meeting.

### **Sunday, November 3**

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Meeting locations will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.

## **Borneo - First Time's A Charm**

*by Laura Mayo*

This hot and humid Georgia summer reminds me of another hot and humid locale - the island of Borneo! In October of last year, I was lucky enough to take my first real travel/wildlife adventure in my almost 30 years of working with primates. I would have gone anywhere to see any species of animal - but when a spot opened up on a trip to see orangutans in the

wild...well, I can't explain the feelings of being able to travel across the world to hopefully see the wild counterparts to an amazing group of animals that I have known personally for over 23 years! Would I see any adorable and gregarious young orangutans and maybe a huge, but sweet adult male...just like the ones who have stolen my heart over my lifetime? I could only imagine...

Get a passport, get inoculated, get supplies (stock up on bug spray was all I kept hearing!) and get a good book for the really long flight that would take me to Indonesia - first Malaysia and then Borneo. The trip was to be twofold. First, it was to work with other zoo/orangutan professionals (about 12 of us from a bunch of different US and European facilities - zookeepers to veterinarians to maintenance professionals to PhD candidates) and bring our experience of caring for orangutans in zoos to help local people care for native orangutans in their own backyards. Second, we would travel to see (hopefully) wild and semi-wild orangutans in their native habitat!

The first leg of the journey brought us to Matang Rescue Center in Sarawak, Malaysia. The center is run by the state forestry division of the local government. Local people work with the animals, but a few westerners who actually went to volunteer at the center years ago and never left run the day-to-day operations.



Sun Bear

Volunteer groups help with projects. We were there to build a multi-tier platform for the many sun bears who reside there. Sun bears, binturong, deer, cats, reptiles, porcupines, birds and many, many monkeys call the center home after being confiscated, injured, or who knows why. But the largest and most "famous" of Matang's residents are the orangutans, who are native only to the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. But they are not treated with the respect they deserve, thus ending up living in cages in the middle of a beautiful rainforest feet from where they must stay. Three adult males will probably never be able to

leave there, but a few of the younger orangutans will be "taught" by staff to live in the forest and



photo by Laura Mayo  
Adult male at Matang Rescue Center

will be released when ready. While at the center, we also showed staff the importance of positive reinforcement training. Though going was a bit slow with the language barrier, we were able to teach the workers a few important behaviors using a clicker to gain trust from their animals and to hopefully improve the daily lives of the animals and their caretakers. Though proud of the physical accomplishment of building the platform and seeing the sun bears happily climb it, I was ready to leave the dismal and depressing :home: these animals reside in to see another part of Indonesia that I had only seen in pictures.

After many small plane flights that took us further into Borneo, the next leg of our trip was a 5-day boat trip on a kletok, a native river boat, that we meandered through beautiful river scenery as we ventured deeper and deeper into

the rainforest. We saw a few birds, like kingfishers and hornbills, and many proboscis monkeys, also native only to Borneo.



Proboscis monkey

We did see two wild orangutans on the side of the river, but there could have been more. They are so elusive and hard to see. We spent a few days in Tanjung Puting National Forest, home to Camp Leakey and the work of Birute Galdikas. Here, visitors trek deep into the forest where feeding platforms with food for the orangutans is placed on top by rangers. All of a sudden, orangutans emerge from everywhere! We would be pointing at one way up in the tree only to look sideways to see a mother and her infant walking very close to the group of tourists! It was very surreal to see so many orangutans (and a gibbon) hanging out, oblivious to the people...no bars or moats to separate us.

At some point in their lives, these orangutans were all obtained because of injuries imposed by humans, displaced from the forest

because of illegal logging and palm oil production, or they were held as pets in someone's home. They ended up in one of the many rehabilitation centers and were taught the basics of how to survive in the wild. The animals are given good supplements during daily feeding times/tourist viewing times, but they are basically "wild." A few of the females have mated with wild males producing offspring.



photo by Laura Mayo  
Female orangutan with baby at Camp Leakey

Our last night was spent sleeping on the kletok under the stars - docked at a beach on the Java Sea. The trip of a lifetime was ending, but we were all ready to get a nice long, hot shower and get back home to see our families. It has been fun looking back at the many photos taken during the trip and to think back on the fun times that were had with a group of awesome, like-minded animal lovers (especially orangutan lovers!!).

Yes, the travel bug has bitten. I can only hope for another chance to see wildlife where they belong and to share the trip with wonderful people. Can't get any better than that!

*Laura Mayo is Assistant Curator of Primates at Zoo Atlanta and a founding member of ACE.*



## Did you know?



Bonobo mom and baby

Did you know that mother bonobos bond strongly with their sons? Also, much work is being done to understand the dynamics of mother-reared bonobos and orphaned bonobos as applied to how group dynamics work, such as consolation among hurt or frightened individuals. For more details, talk to people who attended the May 7 brown bag lunch at Zoo Atlanta, given by Dr. Zanna Clay of Emory University and Lola Ya Bonobo Sanctuary.

# 2012-2013 ACE Board

Your 2012-2013 officers:

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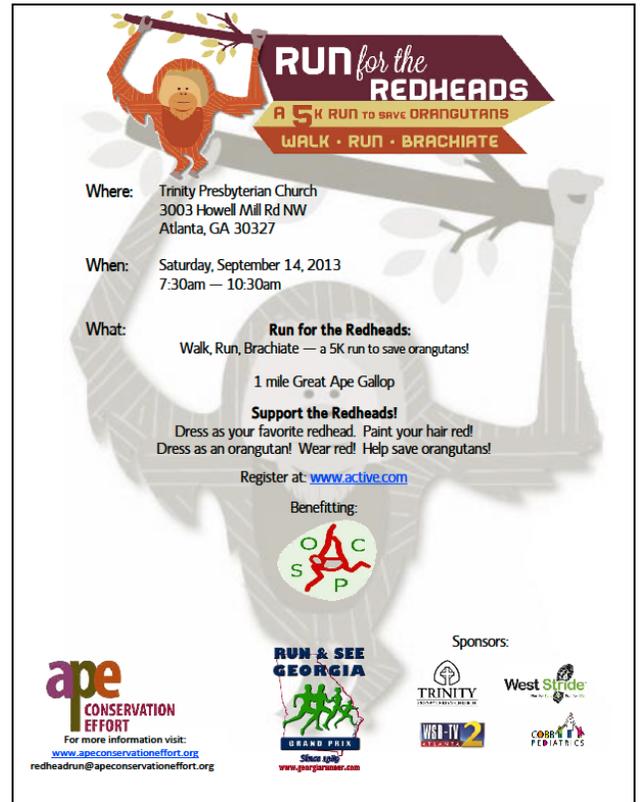
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**RUN for the REDHEADS**  
A 5K RUN TO SAVE ORANGUTANS  
WALK · RUN · BRACHIATE

**Where:** Trinity Presbyterian Church  
3003 Howell Mill Rd NW  
Atlanta, GA 30327

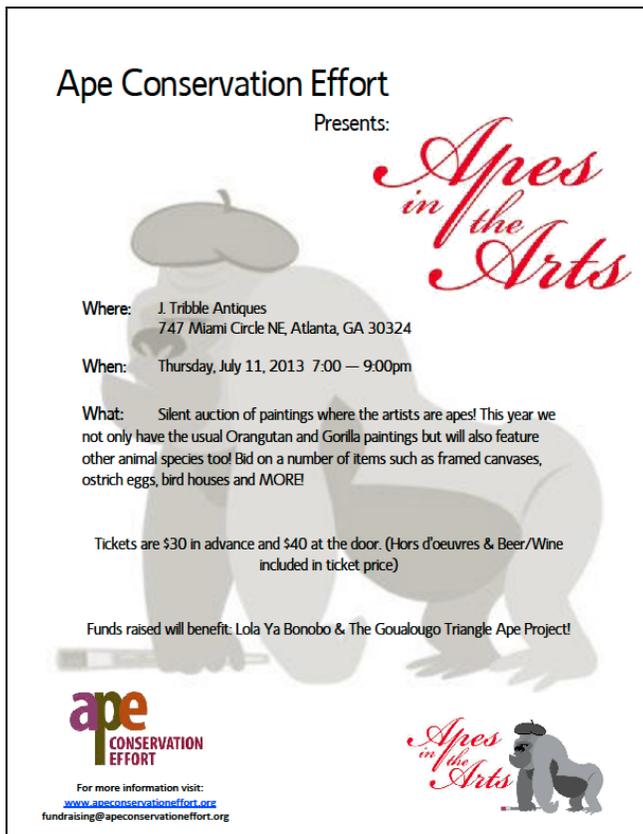
**When:** Saturday, September 14, 2013  
7:30am — 10:30am

**What:** **Run for the Redheads:**  
Walk, Run, Brachiate — a 5K run to save orangutans!  
1 mile Great Ape Gallop  
**Support the Redheads!**  
Dress as your favorite redhead. Paint your hair red!  
Dress as an orangutan! Wear red! Help save orangutans!  
Register at: [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)

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For more information visit:  
[www.apeconservationeffort.org](http://www.apeconservationeffort.org)  
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**Ape Conservation Effort**  
Presents:

*Apes in the Arts*

**Where:** J. Tribble Antiques  
747 Miami Circle NE, Atlanta, GA 30324

**When:** Thursday, July 11, 2013 7:00 — 9:00pm

**What:** Silent auction of paintings where the artists are apes! This year we not only have the usual Orangutan and Gorilla paintings but will also feature other animal species too! Bid on a number of items such as framed canvases, ostrich eggs, bird houses and MORE!

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door. (Hors d'oeuvres & Beer/Wine included in ticket price)

Funds raised will benefit: Lola Ya Bonobo & The Goulougo Triangle Ape Project!

  
For more information visit:  
[www.apeconservationeffort.org](http://www.apeconservationeffort.org)  
[fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org)

*Apes in the Arts*  




**APE CONSERVATION EFFORT**  
3rd Annual

**GORILLA GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
• • • In memory of Andy Pachman • • •

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**  
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:15 A.M. • SHOT GUN START AT 10:00 A.M.

**BROOKFIELD COUNTRY CLUB**  
100 Willow Run • Roswell, GA 30075  
[www.brookfieldcountryclub.com](http://www.brookfieldcountryclub.com)

This event will be played like a golf-a-thon.  
Each Participant must raise a minimum of \$500.00 in sponsorships.

Enjoy a day of **All Inclusive Golf** including:  
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All Beverages Included!

**UNIQUE AWARDS**  
Top Three Golfers, Longest Drive & Closest to the Gorilla Contest

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